The liquor shops from Colachel to the Cape situated near the villages of the people on the coast should be removed as drinking was one of the causes of their degeneracy. The boys of these communities should be given compulsory primary education up to their tenth year of age and they should also be given suitable appointments in the service. A qualified Medical Officer and a Sanitary Officer should be specially deputed to visit these villages and render the people the necessary aid.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Swaminatha Pillai, you spoke about the registry of building sites on concessional terms to your community. You know that there is a Government order issued in 1922 saying that building sites not exceeding 10 cents should be provided for Arasars and others along the sea coast and certain backward communities. I shall have an enquiry instituted to see how far this concession has been availed of and shall instruct the local officers to do their best to encourage the members of the community to avail themselves of this order of Government.

2. In the matter of wells, the Government have arranged for the sinking of these on the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner, and I am informed that three such wells have already been sunk. I think it is in the Muttam village and provision exists in this year's budget, and I hope there will be in every successive year's budget, for sinking wells all along the coast wherever needed.

3. Your next point is the hardship entailed by the enhancement of export duty on fish. Perhaps, if I explain to you a few figures, you will see that there has been no enhancement in effect. As long ago as 1876 the export duty on fish was fixed at Rs. 3 per cwt. Recently, the Government fixed it at Rs. 10 per cwt. So considerably has the price of fish and prawn risen during this period that Rs. 10 per cwt. represents 2½ per cent. of the tariff value of fish.

4. In the matter of liquor shops, the Excise Commissioner has been steadily, if slowly, removing the liquor shops away from the centres where a large number of fisher-folk are congregated.

5. You talk of compulsory education of boys up to the age of ten, and, immediately they reach ten, of Government providing suitable appointments to them. Earlier at the sitting of this session, the question of compulsory education was discussed, and I explained that, for financial and other reasons, it is impossible to institute compulsory education in the country at present. As for providing every boy of ten with a suitable appointment, the only appointment that the Government can give to every one is that of a loyal and self-supporting citizen of the State.

6. All the other points of your representation will be carefully considered.

154. Advancement of the Catholic Arasar community.

MR. G. A. FERNANDEZ (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Roman Catholic Arasar community was backward in point of education, material prosperity, etc. There was no possibility of ascertaining the advance made by this community, because it was not separately classed; for instance, the report of the Education Department which gave the progress of education of 'special classes' never contained any mention of the Catholic Arasar community. The Catholic Arasar community which was an independent homogeneous community by itself was merged in the wider community of Roman Catholics. In all Government records it should be treated separately under the head of "Catholic Arasars".

In spite of the fact that the Catholic Arasars were given the benefit of the fee concession, 75 per cent. of the boys and girls still remained illiterate. This was on account of their low economic condition. The pupils belonging to the community should therefore be given full fee concession. The members of the community were also disinclined to take to education. Primary education in respect of the Catholic Arasars should therefore be made compulsory. Free supply of noon meal to pupils of the community would be a source of help and inducement. As most of the boys and girls of the community would be away in the day following their ancestral profession, night schools should be started where tuition in reading, writing and arithmetic and some useful cottage industry should be given.

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During the monsoons, the community as a whole had no means of livelihood unless they had put by something to fall back upon. During that period several poor people of the community used to collect shanks and lime-shells and eke out their living. This had been made impossible by the Government leasing out the collection of lime-shells, etc., for a paltry sum of Rs. 280 in 1100. This was an act of injustice done to the community and should be rectified.

More wells at Government cost should be sunk for the use of the Arasars. Scarcity of water considerably affected the health of the people. A few dispensaries, allopathic as well as *Ayurveda*, in their villages were urgently needed. The Inspecting Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner should be asked to inspect the villages inhabited by these people and examine the state of their health periodically.

The assurance given by Dr. Lakshmanan, the former Durbar Physician, regarding the establishment of a dispensary at Tiruvattar still remained unfulfilled.

Approach roads to the villages of Arasars should be constructed. A few bridges in disrepair should be put in order. A road or at least a cart track from Tulayavattai police station *via* Pulankuzhi Catholic church to Martandam market was urgently needed.

In order to develop the foreign trade in fish, a co-operative credit bank substantially aided by the Government was required. Co-operative societies exclusively for the Arasars should be formed. To achieve this object, the rule against the formation of societies on communal basis should be relaxed.

A few Catholic Arasars should be trained in subjects relating to fisheries, pressing and manufacture of fish oil, etc. The subordinate ranks of the Fisheries Department should be manned entirely by fisher-folk.

The fisher-folk were not addicted to drink. But several taverns were now located near their villages. They had become a source of hindrance to the progress of the community; they should be removed at least three miles away from their villages.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Fernandez, I am very sorry that it is not possible for me to give you detailed and definite answers on each and every point you have taken up to-day for the simple reason that you found yourself unable to give the Government notice of the matters you were going to represent. This much alone I can say that the Arasar community will never appeal to the Government and not meet with sympathy in return.

155. Needs of the Kammala community.

MR. K. NARAYANAN ASARI (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Kammala community was not represented at all in the Legislative Council and only inadequately in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Out of a total population of nearly forty lakhs, the Kammala community numbered 1,63,724 and therefore deserved to have one seat on the Council. Two seats on the Assembly also should be permanently reserved for the community.

The Kammala community was as was accepted by the Government 'backward' in point of English education. The community was as a whole very poor and could but ill afford to have the benefits of English education. The pupils of the community in English schools and colleges should be given three-quarters fee concession. There were only 134 pupils belonging to the Kammala community in English schools and colleges and as such his proposal would not involve any heavy additional expenditure. Similarly, in Vernacular schools they should be given half-fee concession.

None of the students who passed out from the Quilon Carpentry and Smithery School appeared to have secured any appointment in the State service. For the progress of the community they should be immediately appointed in the service. As many students from that community as applied for admission to the school should be admitted. There should be a general rule to the effect that all Vernacular School Leaving Certificate holders from the community should be entitled to admission to the Carpentry School.

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